

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

A substitute specification is submitted herewith. The substitute specification does not contain new matter.

Section headings are added to the specification as suggested in the Official Action. In addition, editorial changes are made to the specification. The above-noted changes are believed sufficient to address the specification objections noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 is amended to change "the sample" to "object" as suggested in the Official Action.

Claim 10 is amended to address the claim objection as to this claim.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 were rejected as unpatentable over MEDFORD et al. 6,608,717 in view of KOPELMAN et al. 6,379,955. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites the local probes being at least one hundred in a field observed and being animated by a movement. A similar amendment is made to independent claim 10. Support for the amendment can be found on page 2, lines 17-23 and page 4, lines 1-6 of the application as filed.

MEDFORD is directed to an optical microscope system wherein a sample is visualized through an interferometer. The Official Action recognizes that MEDFORD does not disclose insertion of local probes into the sample and offers KOPELMAN in an attempt to overcome this shortcoming of MEDFORD.

Column 10, line 54 through column 11, line 18 of KOPELMAN discloses fiberless sensors. Column 11, lines 7-10 of KOPELMAN disclose that several individual sensor locations can be identified within a small localized area.

However, KOPELMAN does not disclose that the local probes number at least one hundred in a field observed.

Moreover, neither reference discloses that local probes are animated by a movement.

The above-noted features are missing from each of the references, are absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

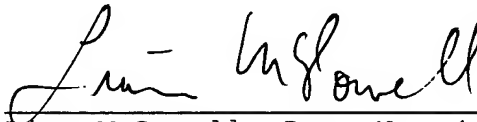
By way of further explanation, as disclosed on page 2, lines 17-23 and page 4, lines 1-6 of the present application, for example, movement of the probes enables a realization of characteristic pictures of the object. The probes used are numerous generally several thousands and at least one hundred in the observed field. As set forth above, the references neither disclose at least one hundred probes in a field observed nor that these probes are animated by a movement.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liam McDowell", is written over a horizontal line.

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- copy of marked-up copy of originally-filed specification and substitute specification